

REMARKS

Before this amendment, claims 1-12, 14-32, 36, 39-56, 59-67, 69-84, 86-98, and 286 were pending in the application. The Office allowed claims 70-84, 86-98, and 286. In addition, the Office: (a) rejected claims 1-12, 14-32, 39, 42-55, 59-67, and 69; and (b) objected to claims 36, 40, 41, and 56 as depending on rejected claims.

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejections of, and objections to, the claims, the Applicant with this paper cancels those claims without prejudice and seeks to pursue the allowed claims in this application. More specifically, the Applicant cancels without prejudice claims 1-12, 14-32, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42-55, 56, 59-67, and 69.

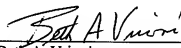
The Applicant reserves the right, and presently intends, to pursue the rejected, allowable (objected to) and/or other claims in follow-on or other applications and to present arguments with respect to those claims in such applications. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that it does not amend or reject the claims because of the rejections over the cited references; rather, the Applicant merely seeks to facilitate compact prosecution and to expedite the issuance of a patent.

In view of the remarks above, reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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